

5/30/13

Scott Dianda
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48908

Subject: Homestead Property Tax Exemption for 100% Disabled Veterans

Dear Sir:

I support House Bill 4698 being introduced by Scott Dianda for the following reasons:

1. I'm a 100% disabled veteran serving my country during the years of 1968-69 due to herbicide exposure (Agent Orange).
2. Most states award 100% for severely disabled veterans property tax exemption for a veteran's homestead with no questions asked or provide an affidavit.
3. If you are 100% disabled you either have either cardiovascular disease, nerve problems, breathing problems, post traumatic stress disorder, tinnitus, and cancer. I have four of these conditions and probably will end up with a few more before I pass on. There are one-third of the Vietnam veterans that are deceased due to the above mentioned conditions.

I think it is discriminatory since most states honor their veterans while there are a few that don't honor their veterans. The Gulf War veterans, Korean War veterans, and the new veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are having similar conditions. If you have one or two of these conditions I do not wish them on any individual.

I applied for a Specially Adapted Housing Grant and was denied because I'm not blind, missing a limb or wheelchair bound but I am 100% disabled due to the conditions I listed. I suggest you spend a day at the V.A. Health Facility and you will realize what I'm trying to explain.

Must the 100% disabled veteran relocate to another state that honors this benefit in order to open up some eyes in the State of Michigan? Why are we rated last for all states for V.A. disability benefits?

Sincerely,



Phillip E. Therrian
13755 Sunrise Drive
Baraga, MI 49908